

MINUTES
INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
JULY 28, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX - COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Agency: Scott, Sutphen, Block, Furlong, Williams
Staff: Jones, Silsby

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Scott at 7:02 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF June 23, 2010

MOTION: To approve the minutes of June 23, 2010

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Furlong, so voted unanimously as written

IV. NEW APPLICATIONS

1. Walmart Expansion, 150 Gold Star Highway

Attorney John Knuff of Hurwitz, Sagarin, Slossberg & Knuff, LLC in Milford, CT and Daren Gray of Doucet & Associates, Inc. in Northampton, MA were present for this application.

Staff distributed maps and noted that the wetland application narrative had previously been distributed to the Agency.

Attorney John Knuff reviewed the proposal to expand the existing retail store and related improvements to stormwater treatment. The only regulated activity is to upgrade the stormwater treatment system. Knuff stated that this stormwater treatment system will treat the entire site, not just the expansion. The location of the wetlands was noted relative to the location of the existing store. Knuff stated that most work will be about 30 feet into the buffer area. A new discharge pipe will be installed at the existing outlet. In regards to inquiries about the rate of runoff, Knuff explained that the rate of runoff will be diminished. For the record, Block reiterated that the new proposed stormwater treatment system is being proposed for the entire property.

Daren Gray gave details about the location of the small increase in impervious surfaces. Gray stated that Groton Utilities has been involved in the preliminary design of the stormwater system. Knuff stated that no additional parking is required. Staff stated that parking had been decreased many years ago. Details were given about the catch basins, floatable separators, and capturing drainage. Knuff reviewed the proposed water treatment process in detail.

Staff agreed with Furlong that a portion of the drainage from Hilton Gardens flows into the wetlands between the hotel and Walmart. Knuff gave details about landscaping and explained that debris between Hilton Gardens and Walmart will be removed. Part of this project includes leaving the natural boulders in that area to slow

down the water runoff. Relative to an inquiry from Williams, Knuff explained that the traffic pattern will essentially be the same.

The Agency scheduled a site walk for Tuesday August 24, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

MOTION: To Classify as a Minor application

Motion by Sutphen, seconded by Furlong, so voted unanimously

V. PENDING

1. Parking Lot Improvements, 721 Long Hill Road

Ken Petrini of DiCesare Bentley Engineers reviewed changes to the plan to expand the parking lot to accommodate a retail use on the former furniture sales site. Upland review activity of 12,682 square feet is being proposed for parking lot improvements. He also reviewed the plans for stormwater discharge from the parking lot. The project includes an upgrade to stormwater management facilities. He reviewed the report regarding rooftop equipment and noted that gutters will be directed to a stone trench.

Staff explained that the stormwater unit that is being used is recommended for gas stations.

MOTION: To approve the 721 Long Hill Road Parking Lot Improvements application for the following reasons:

1. There is no loss of wetland or watercourse associated with this project.
2. The stormwater discharge system from the parking lot and from the building roof top will be upgraded to provide a higher level of stormwater renovation than currently exists.

This permit is subject to the four standard conditions and the following additional condition:

1. A construction entrance shall be shown on the plan.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Block, so voted unanimously

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Avery Park Improvements, Jurisdictional Ruling

Nicholas Woviotis, an Eagle Scout candidate of Troup 76, distributed documentation relative to his request to enhance the landscaping at Avery Memorial Park so the area is more accessible and usable for citizens. He hopes to clean up the area by removing debris and installing a walkway. Woviotis stated that he will not use any herbicide and plans to keep the area as natural as possible. He stated that the clearing will be done by hand. Woviotis noted that plant donors have not yet been determined. Staff stated that a Connecticut Wetland Plant Nursery in Marlboro, CT. may be of some assistance.

Staff gave background information about approvals given in 2000 to the Town of Groton. She stated that there is no break in the wall and only remnants of the path exist. She added that this area is almost entirely wetlands. Staff stated that any work along Route 1 will require state permits. Instead of putting a 2nd opening in the wall, Scott suggested to install a "Walkover", which may not require approval by the State. Options for the path and mowing options were addressed.

Furlong inquired whether Woviotis would welcome the assistance of a Biologist to help determine the types of species that are in existence on the property. Woviotis would welcome the help.

Scott does not see the need for a permit.

MOTION: To find that the following activities associated with the Landscape Enhancement Project at Avery Park on Poquonnock Road are permitted as non-regulated uses under Section 4.2a of the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Regulations:

- Removal of litter and debris
- Removal of weeds and grass on existing footbridge and path
- Removal of invasive vines using hand tools
- Planting of native shrubs

The Agency also finds that these activities do not disturb the natural and indigenous character of the wetlands or watercourse by removal or deposition of material, alteration or obstruction of water flow, or pollution of the wetland or watercourse. The Agency notes that any use of an herbicide would require a permit.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Block, so voted unanimously

2. Report of Chair

Sutphen stated that she is concerned with the practice of spraying the area around guard rails to control weed growth adjacent to the wetlands. Staff explained that the Agency could notify the Public Works Department to request that they apply for a permit for this activity. Staff will notify Assistant Director of Public Works John Carrington by memo and explain that the Agency would like to "permit" that activity.

Sutphen inquired about the repaving of Fishtown Road that begins next week. Staff suggested that the Agency call the Public Works Department with questions and to request a timeline.

Scott asked if a member could cover him at the next Committee of Chairperson Meeting scheduled for October 18, 2010.

Block will be away until September.

3. Report of Staff

Staff presented information about the Superfund site.

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VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Barbara Block, Secretary
Inland Wetland Agency

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II